Shershah Suri Road, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Tilak Bridge, Transport Bhavan, Todar Mal Road, Tolstoy Marg, Talkatora Road, UCO Bank, Parliament Street, Vithal Bhai Patel House, Vigyan Bhawan, Windsor Place, Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg,

Use of gas

2674. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since 1980, off-shore oil production has increased almost 5 times but the increasing quantities of gas that came with the oil had to be flared because plants to use this gas (mainly as LPG for domestic use and for power) were not ready;

(b) the amount and value of the gas so flared during the period 1980--85;

(c) whether the synchronisation of the use of gas in fertilizer plants and the availability of gas was planned; if so, with what results; and

(d) by how many days years the use of gas in fertilizer plants became would become, late since the availability of gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) The oil production from offshore fields has increased nearly five times in five years since 1980. A larger proportion of associated gas is being progressively put to productive use; while in 1980-81, about 54 per cent of the associated gas produced in Bombay High was flared in 1984-85, this figure came down to 42.8 per cent. The flaring of associated gas at Bombay High is expected to be minimised, except flaring for safety reasons, by March—April 1986, when the additional compression facilities at Bombay High are commissioned.

(b) During the last five years, i.e., 1980-81 to 1984-85, a total quantity of 5316 Million Cubic Metres of associated gas was flared from the Bombay High Offshore fields. The national value of this flared gas is estimated at Rs. 53.16 crores, corresponding to crude oil production of about 63.5 million tonnes during the same period, valued at about Rs. 8700 crores, at domestic prices.

(c) In the case of free gas as, for instance, South Bassein gas, the schedule of production and supply of gas is being synchronised with the schedule of commissioning of the fertilizer plants. In the case of associated gas, synchronisation of schedules is difficult, as gas is produced along with crude oil.

(d) The time lag between discovery of gas and its utilisation depends on the timing of investments on its production, transporation and processing facilities, and on the schedule of consuming units.

Losses in terms of fertilizer production

2675. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news item in the 'Times of India' dated 10th September 1985 to the effect that losses running into crores of rupees in terms of fertilizer production have occurred due to conceptual errors and inordinate delays in the supply of critical equipment which have held up completion of pipeline project for supplying gas to Rs. 1000 crores Hazira Fertilizer Project which has been ready for commissioning for several months; and

(b) if so, what are the details of action taken against the erring persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.